

Proverbs 1:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privily for their own lives.

Analysis

Solomon's commentary on the enticement: 'And they lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privily for their own lives.' The irony is devastating—sinners think they're hunting victims but are actually destroying themselves. The boomerang of sin returns to the sender. This reflects the *lex talionis* (law of retaliation) principle: violent sin produces violent judgment. God's moral universe ensures that those who deal in blood will suffer blood. Self-destruction is sin's inevitable fruit.

Historical Context

Ancient wisdom literature frequently observed the self-destructive nature of evil. The book of Proverbs returns repeatedly to this theme: sin promises life but delivers death. Historical examples abound—Haman hung on his own gallows (Esther 7:10), Absalom died by his rebellion (2 Samuel 18). The moral universe operates under divine justice; wickedness contains seeds of its own judgment. This principle transcends cultures.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does sin's self-destructive nature demonstrate God's justice built into the moral fabric of reality?
2. What does the irony of ambushing themselves teach us about sin's deceptive promise of benefit while delivering harm?

Interlinear Text

הֵם !	לְדָמָם	יֵאָרְבוּ	! צִפְנוּ ו	לְנַפְשֵׁיהֶם:
H1992	for their own blood	And they lay wait	they lurk privily	for their own lives
	H1818	H693	H6845	H5315

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 9:16 (Parallel theme): The LORD is known by the judgment which he executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. Higgaion. Selah.

Esther 7:10 (Parallel theme): So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.

Psalms 55:23 (Blood): But thou, O God, shalt bring them down into the pit of destruction: bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; but I will trust in thee.

Proverbs 28:17 (Blood): A man that doeth violence to the blood of any person shall flee to the pit; let no man stay him.